

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /047 W
-----019341 041708Z /47

O R 041644Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9103
INFO USCOMSOLANT
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS CZ
COMUSNAVSO FT AMADOR CZ
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3314

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, CI
SUBJ: UNITAS XIX PLANNING

REF: (A) USCOMSOLANT 271940Z APR 78; (B) BUENOS AIRES 3374

1. UNFORTUNATELY GOC CONTINUES TO BE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER BEAGLE CHANNEL PROBLEM AND IS NOT REPEAT NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THE OUTCOME.
2. GOC OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN FIRST ARGENTINE/CHILEAN JOINT COMMISSION HAVE TOLD US THAT THE MEETINGS WERE TOTALLY MEANINGLESS; THAT ARGENTINES REFUSED TO ACCEPT BINDING ARBITRATION DECISION HANDED DOWN BY THE BRITISH QUEEN BASED ON FINDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL WORLD COURT'S JUSTICES (INCLUDING ONE U.S.), AND THREATENED WAR WHENEVER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE RAISED (IN CONTRAST TO PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REF (A)).

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3. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME TO HAVE THE U.S. NAVY INVOLVED IN A PORT VISIT IN TO DISPUTED WATERS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, OF COURSE, TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT THE CHILEANS WILL DO BUT CERTAINLY THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REACT IN WAYS THAT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL. THEY MIGHT, FOR INSTANCE, CANCEL THEIR OWN PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS, OR THEY MIGHT FEEL OBLIGED TO SEND THEIR OWN UNITS TO THE CHANNEL DURING THE USHUAIA VISIT, OR THEY MIGHT DEVISE SOME OTHER RESPONSE.

WE CAN BE
CERTAIN THAT THE GOC WOULD REGARD A VISIT BY U.S. UNITS
TO USHUAIA AS A NEEDLESS COMPLICATION OF AN ALREADY DELICATE AND
DIFFICULT SITUATION.

4. THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT.
THE CRUCIAL ISSUE FOR THE USG IS TO CONTINUE TO STAY OUT OF THE
BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE PARTICULARLY IN A TIME FRAME (SEPTEMBER)
WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE CRITICAL. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE CONTINUE
OUR POLICY OF AVOIDING INVOLVEMENT IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE.
THIS REQUIRES THAT THE U.S. NAVY NOT REPEAT NOT VISIT USHUAIA.
LANDAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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